Strategy and Action Plan for the Food Processing Sector has been formulated for growth of Food Processing Sector in the country.

The Ministry has submitted Scheme for Infrastructure Development during the 1lth Plan, under which, it will give financial assistance for setting up of Mega Food Parks, integrated cold chain infrastructure/value addition and preservation infrastructures. The Mega Food Park Scheme will provide backward and forward linkages as well as reliable and sustainable supply chain. Emphasis will be on creating infrastructure in rural areas to support such linkages ensuring better employment opportunities and income to farmers. Other thrust areas indentified for strategic intervention are establishment of Strategic Distribution Centres, modernization of abattoirs, upgradation of hygienic and quality street food and food streets, establishment and upgradation of quality control laboratories etc.

Action plan for enhancing capacity of cold storages

† 1325. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared or propose to prepare any action plan, to enhance the capacity of existing cold storages in the country, in order to increase the sources of income in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated during the current financial year for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has submitted a proposal to Planning Commission on a comprehensive Cold Chain Infrastructure Scheme for 1lth Plan for providing financial assistance to various stakeholders for revamping integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels-farm level primary processing centre-cum-cold chain, collection/aggregation centers and Strategic Distribution Centres. The initiatives undertaken by the Ministry are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages. The Budget allocated by the Ministry (Budget Estimate) for Infrastructure development including Cold Storages during 2007-08 is Rs. 100.00 crore.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) had been providing financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid upto 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs under the Cold Chain component of 10th Plan Scheme. The assistance under the scheme was limited to cold storages for non-horticulture produces, special type of cold storages with controlled/modified atmosphere technology, cold storages as integral part of processing units or as a common facility in food parks.

Food processing industries

1326. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI N. R GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of food processing industries in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.